

Chretien of Canada. Mr. Chocola is a candidate for Indiana's Second Congressional District.

Statement on the Senate Judiciary Committee Vote on Priscilla Owen

September 5, 2002

The Senate Judiciary Committee today voted to deny the American people the service of an outstanding individual with a record of accomplishment and a brilliant legal mind. The committee has voted down Justice Priscilla Owen, my nominee to serve as a judge on the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, and is preventing the full Senate from voting on her nomination.

I know Justice Owen well. She is an outstanding judge and a woman of integrity who has received outspoken bipartisan support. Based on her distinguished service with the Texas Supreme Court for 7 years, the American Bar Association unanimously rated her "well qualified," the highest rating the organization can bestow upon a nominee. She is known to be a fair and impartial judge who strives to interpret the law fairly.

What the Democrat members of the Senate Judiciary Committee have done to Justice Owen is shameful, even by Washington standards. They have distorted her record and misconstrued her opinions. They have determined that a nominee's experience, academic credentials, and character are inconsequential.

Justice Owen's nomination should be brought to the floor of the Senate for a vote. If the full Senate were to vote on her nomination today, I am confident she would be confirmed. The Democrats on the Judiciary Committee know this and, therefore, voted to prevent it.

As I have said before, today's vote is about more than one woman or one seat on an individual court. The committee's action today continues its pattern of obstruction at a time when there are too many vacancies in our Federal courts, a problem that the Chief Justice of the United States has called "alarming." Today's action by this small group of Democrat Senators is wrong. It has harmed a good person, harmed our courts, and harmed the American people.

Message to the Senate Transmitting the Liechtenstein-United States Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters

September 5, 2002

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Principality of Liechtenstein on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, signed at Vaduz on July 8, 2002. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Treaty.

The Treaty is one of a series of modern mutual legal assistance treaties being negotiated by the United States in order to counter criminal activities more effectively. The Treaty should be an effective tool to assist in the prosecution of a wide variety of crimes, including terrorism, drug trafficking, and fraud and other white-collar offenses. The Treaty is self-executing.

The Treaty provides for a broad range of cooperation in criminal matters. Mutual assistance available under the Treaty includes: locating or identifying persons or items; serving documents; taking the testimony or statements of persons; transferring persons in custody for testimony or other purposes; providing documents, records and items; executing requests for searches and seizures; assisting in proceedings related to immobilization and forfeiture of assets and restitution; initiating criminal proceedings in the Requested State; and any other form of assistance consistent with the purposes of this Treaty and not prohibited by the laws of the State from whom the assistance is requested.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Treaty, and give its advice and consent to ratification.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 5, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 6. An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Message on the Observance of Rosh Hashanah, 5763

September 6, 2002

I send greetings to the Jewish community in the United States and around the world as you observe Rosh Hashanah.

As you mark the beginning of the High Holy Days, take time to reflect on the past year. In seeking forgiveness and renewal, may you again appreciate the love and mercy of the Almighty, and look to the year ahead with hope and faith. I encourage you to draw strength from the many examples of courage, sacrifice, and compassion we have witnessed during the last year.

As we face the challenges of a new era, America remains committed to freedom, justice, and opportunity for all people. During this time of examination and remembrance, I join you in looking forward to a future of tolerance and peace.

Laura joins me in sending our best wishes for a blessed holiday spent with family and friends.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

September 1

In the morning, the President returned from the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, to Washington, DC.

September 2

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Neville Island, PA, where he toured the Carpenters' Training Center. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

September 3

In the morning, the President had intelligence briefings.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Vice President Dick Cheney. Later, he met with Republican Senate leaders to discuss proposed homeland security legislation.

The White House announced that the President will meet with Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada in Detroit, MI, on September 9 to discuss border issues and cooperation against terrorism, and other bilateral and international issues.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Alvaro Uribe of Colombia to the White House for a meeting and working lunch on September 25.

The President announced his intention to nominate Dale Cabaniss to be a member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority and, upon confirmation, to designate him as Chairman.

The President announced his intention to nominate Scott W. Muller to be General Counsel of the Central Intelligence Agency.

The President announced his intention to nominate Grover Joseph Rees to be Ambassador to East Timor.

The President announced his intention to nominate Rafael Cuellar (proprietor of small business representative) and Michael Scott (U.S. Department officer representative) to be members of the Board of Directors of the National Consumer Cooperative Bank.

The President announced his intention to nominate Harold Damelin to be Inspector General of the Small Business Administration.

The President announced his intention to nominate Linda M. Springer to be Controller of the Office of Federal Financial Management in the Office of Management and Budget.

The President announced his intention to nominate John F. Keane to be Ambassador to Paraguay.

The President announced his intention to nominate Philip N. Hogen to be Chairman of the National Indian Gaming Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Allen I. Olson and Irene B. Brooks to be Commissioners of the International